The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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In doing what we ought we deserve no praise, because it is our duty.—St. Augustine.

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BRITISH UNIONS UNDER ATTACK; CENTURY-OLD RIGHTS IN DANGER

Washington, April 16.—London information to A. F. of L. headquarters indicates that moderate members of the Conservative Party, now in control of the government, are not enthusiastic over the government's attack on the trade union movement.

Organized labor is united against the bill and the moderates fear its passage will destroy every possibility of industrial understandings between employers and employed.

The bill annuls rights granted to workers 100 years ago by outlawing "any strike calculated to coerce the government or intimidate the community." Any one "declaring, instigating or promoting" such a strike shall be liable to a fine or two years' imprisonment. Trade unionists who join strikebreakers can not be expelled from their union nor deprived of any benefits. No government employe can affiliate with the trade union movement. Picking and trade union political activity are also restricted.

As a result of the national and the miners' strikes there has been a general understanding that the government would submit anti-union legislation, rather than attempt to remove industrial ills that caused these strikes.

The bill is backed in the House of Commons by Winston Churchill, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Neville Chamberlain, Minister of Health. During the miners' strike the latter refused to permit communities that were politically controlled by workers to distribute poor relief. Communities raise this money by a tax levy. Messrs. Churchill and Chamberlain, together with Lord Birkenhead, are outstanding figures in the arming of "die hards" of the Conservative Party who have evidently swung Premier Baldwin to their side. The latter has made many pleas for industrial peace.

Debate on the bill will be sensational. The workers point out that the proposal is more sweeping than the famous Taff Vale decision of 25 years ago, which held that individual workers are liable for strike damages. This decision was annulled after an agitation that swept England and established the present Labor Party.

HIGH COURT DECISION PROTESTED BY GREEN

Washington, April 16.—Compulsory service is contrary to American ideals, said William Green, president of the A. F. of L., in commenting on the United States Supreme Court's decision in the Indiana stone case.

The court ruled that workers can not refuse to handle non-union products, even though picketing or boycotting were not resorted to. The court said refusal to handle the stone interferes with interstate commerce.

"This decision involves the right of workers to refuse to work under objectionable conditions," said President Green. "The right to give or withhold service is an inherent right. The individual worker believes he may exercise this right singly or in co-operation with fellow workers.

"Labor believes it is a settled principle of law that working men may do this as a matter of self-protection against powerful corporations.

"Organized labor's judgment on the issues involved in this case are set forth in the dissenting opinion of Justice Brandeis and Justice Holmes.

"The application of the Sherman anti-trust law to labor by the Supreme Court brings working people to approximately involuntary servitude. A remedy for this condition must be found. Labor must be permitted to exercise freedom in the disposition of its labor power."

MILK DRIVERS HELD UP; BOSSES BREAK PLEDGE

Boston, April 16.—Superior Court Judge Morton has ordered that $60,647 damages be collected from individual members of the Milk Wagon Drivers and Creamery Workers' Union for the benefit of Alden Bros. Company. Interest and court costs are also assessed and the unionists are perpetually enjoined from picketing or boycotting the unfair concern.

This is the first time a Massachusetts court has applied the Danbury Hatters' decision of the United States Supreme Court.

The Alden company and the union maintained friendly relations for 15 years. When the last contract expired the union was asked to postpone negotiations until an agreement with Whiting & Sons, a competitor, was reached. The Aldens promised to accept the same contract. The union and the Whiting concern signed a contract and the union called on the Alden company to live up to its promise. It was then found that the concern was amalgamated with two non-union concerns, and the combine announced an anti-union shop policy.

The milk wagon drivers called on their friends not to patronize the pledge-breaking firm. The injunction and assessment for damages on the ground of injury to business is the result.

The unionists will appeal the case to the State Supreme Court.

UNIONISTS MUST HANDLE NON-UNION PRODUCTS SAYS SUPREME COURT IN SENSATIONAL DECISION

Washington, April 16.—If organized workers simply refuse to handle a non-union product such action is an interference with interstate commerce and therefore illegal, rules the United States Supreme Court.

The absence of picketing or boycotting, or other activity which courts are pleased to term "threats and coercion" does not make the workers' refusal legal.

This far-reaching decision was made in the case of Indiana stone companies against the Journeymen Stone Cutters' Association of North America.

Justices Holmes and Brandeis dissented. The latter made this significant statement: "If on the undisputed facts of this case, refusal to work can be enjoined, Congress created by the Sherman law and the Clayton law an instrument for imposing restraints on labor which remind us of involuntary servitude."

The stone companies, several years ago, declared for the anti-union shop and the case has been in the courts since then because the unionists would not handle the non-union product.

The companies were refused an injunction in the Federal District Court and the Circuit Court of Appeals. In the latter court Judge Alschuler said the defendants were within their right not to work on the objectionable product even though such action "might have tended in some degree to discourage builders from specifying appellants' stone and thus to reduce the quantity of their product which would enter interstate commerce."

The companies appealed to the United States Supreme Court, which has reversed the lower courts on the ground of interference with interstate commerce. Justice Sutherland, in the majority opinion, swept aside the question of fundamental rights and emphasized the loss of trade.

Judge Brandeis upheld the union and contended that there was no unreasonable restraint of interstate commerce shown. He showed that the majority decision went far beyond decisions in the Danbury Hatters' case, the Duplex case and the Bucks Stove case. He said that the court permitted the steel trust to combine in a single corporation 50 per cent of the steel industry of this country, dominating the trade through its vast resources. In the Shoe Machinery case, said Justice Brandeis, the court permitted capitalists to combine in another corporation practically the whole machinery industry of the country, necessarily giving it a position of dominance over shoe manufacturing in America.

"It would indeed be strange," said Justice Brandeis, "if Congress had by the same act willed to deny to members of a small craft of workingmen the right to co-operate in simply refraining from work when that course was the only means of self-protection against a combination of militant and powerful employers. I can not believe that Congress did so.

"The manner in which these individual stone cutters asserted rights to perform their union duty by refusing to finish stone 'cut by men working in opposition to' the Association was confessedly legal," continued Justice Brandeis.

"They were innocent alike of trespass and of breach of contract. They refrained from violence, intimidation, fraud and threats. They did not picket. They refrained from obstructing otherwise either the plaintiffs or their customers in attempts to secure other help. They did not plan a boycott against any of the plaintiffs or against builders who use the plaintiffs' product. On the contrary they expressed entire willingness to cut and finish anywhere any stone quarried by any of the plaintiffs except such stone as had been partially 'cut by men working in opposition to' the Association."

Sacco-Vanzetti Appeal Doubtful; Trial Judge Has Extended Power

Boston, April 16.—Following refusal by the State Supreme Court to grant a new trial to Sacco and Vanzetti, convicted on the charge of murdering a South Braintree paymaster seven years ago, the two men were sentenced to death by Judge Webster Thayer. Friends of the accused fear every State appeal has been exhausted. Appeal to the United States Supreme Court is doubtful because no Federal issue is involved.

The Supreme Court's decision recalls that under Massachusetts law the court of last appeal only passes on whether the trial was technically correct. It remains for the trial judge in criminal cases to pass on motions for a new trial. This gives the trial judge a wide latitude and practically makes Supreme Court rules, "judicial discretion."

Governor Fuller is petitioned to extend executive clemency. Representative Sawyer of Ware, who is a Congregational minister, has interested a reduction in the State Legislature calling for the appointment of a commission to investigate the case and report to the Governor whether it considered that the men had a fair trial or should be granted a new trial. Mr. Sawyer said he has no personal opinion to express on the subject but felt that in view of opinions throughout the world that the trial was unfair it was necessary to do something to clear Massachusetts courts of charges of unfairness. He was acting, he said, on his own responsibility.

Friends of Sacco and Vanzetti claim Judge Thayer is prejudiced against the accused because they are radicals. Affidavits, it is said, will prove that the Judge discussed the case in a Boston club and on the Worcester golf links. In his charge to the jury, Judge Thayer said the two men showed "consciousness of guilt" at the time of their arrest.

"If," he said, "you find such consciousness of guilt, such consciousness must relate to the murder and not to the fact that they and their friends were draft-dodgers (during World War) and liable to be deported or were afraid that some kind of punishment would come to them."

Supreme courts in many States would order a new trial on statements of this kind.

INVEST NO MONEY; "MAKE" $1,200,000

New York, April 16.—How a group of bankers "made" $1,200,000 without putting up one cent of money was revealed by Robert E. Christie, vice president of Dillon, Read & Co. in a suit brought by minority stockholders of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company.

The bankers floated a $30,000,000 bond issue, and between themselves organized a "purchase" group, a "banking" group and a "distributing" group. By merely assuming liability for taking over the bond issue and charging for paper transactions between various groups, the $1,200,000 profit was possible.

INDUSTRY AT NEW HIGH WITH LESS EMPLOYES

Washington, April 16.—American industrial production broke all records with less workers in 1925, announces the United States Census Bureau. The record is probably equalled or exceeded slightly in 1926, but it is too early for complete data to be available.

Although the total value of production in 1925 was greater than in any other year, the average number of wage earners employed was smaller. Compared with 1923 the decrease was 4.4 per cent, and compared with 1919 it was 6.7 per cent. This points to greater industrial efficiency, because fewer employes are turning out a larger total of production. That the increased use of machinery is responsible for this change is indicated by a considerable increase in the horsepower employed.

Automobile production in 1925 was first, followed by meat packing, steel works and rolling mills, petroleum and printing and publishing.

STORY WITHDRAWN

Springfield, Ill., April 16.—Senator Caraway has withdrawn a statement made in the United States Senate that John H. Walker, president of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, received money from politicians in the last primary election of this State.

In a letter to Mr. Walker, Senator Caraway said: "I know of nothing that could or does indicate that you accepted any money. I am sorry that any statement that I made should be so construed. I make use that you care to make of this letter you are at liberty so to use it."

MORE COMPENSATION

Lansing, Mich., April 16.—The House of Representatives has passed a compensation bill that increases maximum weekly benefits from $14 to $18.

A. F. OF L. HONORS LABOR PARTY CHIEF

Washington, April 16.

THE A. F. of L. Executive Council will give a luncheon to Ramsey MacDonald, leader of the British Labor Party and former premier of Great Britain, on Wednesday evening, April 20, in this city.

Invitations have been extended to Secretary of Labor Davis; Ethelbert Stewart, Commissioner, United States Bureau of Labor Statistics; Hugh Kerwin, chief of the Bureau of Conciliation, United States Department of Labor; officers and representatives of A. F. of L. affiliates and the railway brotherhoods who are stationed in this city, and representatives of the local labor movement. President Green will be chairman of the evening.

Mr. MacDonald is making a short visit to this country. He is accompanied by his daughter.

CITIZENS EVADE COURT; INVOLVED IN OIL CASE

Washington, April 16.—Possibilities of heavy fines do not alarm two Canadian citizens who are sought by the government as witnesses in the conspiracy trial of Harry F. Sinclair, oil magnate, and Albert B. Fall, former Secretary of the Interior.

The missing men are H. M. Blackmer, former head of the Midwest Refining Company, and James E. O'Neil, former president of the Prairie Oil and Gas Company. They disappeared two years ago and are supposed to be in Paris.

The missing men are key witnesses for the prosecution. Without their testimony on the affairs of the Continental Trading Company of Canada, the mysterious concern from which Fall received $230,500 in Liberty bonds, allegedly as a bribe for the Teapot Dome lease, the government's case is incomplete, for the only other witnesses who might shed light on it are the defendants who can not be forced to testify against themselves.

PENSION BILL ADVANCES

Springfield, Ill., April 16.—The Bodermann old-age pension bill has passed every preliminary stage in the House of Representatives and now awaits final action by that body. Organized labor and several fraternal organizations support the bill.

MINE LAWS IGNORED; LOST LIVES RESULT

Nashville, Tenn., April 16.—A State legislative committee places blame for the Rockwood mine disaster on George McCoy, an irresponsible and inefficient mine boss. He lost his life in the disaster. Blame is indirectly placed on the Tennessee Board of Mine Examiners for appointing this incompetent, and on officials of the Roane Iron Company for their negligence in ignoring safety laws.

The committee report shows that mine officials failed to take the most ordinary precautions to protect employes. Water had to be carried 500 feet in buckets to sprinkle any small quantities of dust which collected. Dust was permitted to accumulate in great quantities and in a number of instances was ignited more than a year. Air passages were filled with water with no effort to drain them, although it was known that the airways were already too small.

McCoy handed in for days before the disaster reports which showed clearly showed he was neglecting his duty. These reports were signed daily by representatives of the mine who expressed no surprise that they were identical for so long a period.

The committee said the mine operators were using out-of-date methods and did not obey mining laws that obligate them to make proper investigations and keep informed on safety conditions.

The report includes evidence that McCoy boasted that gifts of liquor to mine inspectors for examiners and officials were chiefly responsible for his certificate as a Class "A" gas boss.

Organized labor is calling on the Tennessee general assembly to remedy a condition that denies workers the right to organize and protect themselves while permitting lax officials to gamble with life.

COMMUNISTS HOWL "WE ARE FRAMED"

New York, April 16.—Communists under the investigation in Magistrate Corrigan's court howl they are "framed" by the A. F. of L. special committee that is fighting the International Fur Workers' Union. The "reds" spent more than $800,000 with no record of the expenditures. Some of the crew admitted their wrong to the committee, but now repudiate this confession.

They all but wrecked the fur workers' organized movement and now plead the charges against them is a plot to weaken their influence in the union.

Matthew Woll, A. F. of L. vice president, and Edward McGrady and Hugh Frayne, A. F. of L. representatives, are aiding the fur workers.

LOYAL UNIONIST DIES

El Paso, Texas, April 16.—Spence Lee Ritter, of the Post Office Clerks' Union and well known in the southwest trade union movement, died here. When taken to the hospital he insisted that he be carried by his polling booth that he might vote in the primaries for a friend of organized labor.

WASTE COSTLY TO WORKERS; DETRACTS FROM EARNINGS

Philadelphia, April 16.—Organized labor is interested in the elimination of waste in industry, said William Green, president of the A. F. of L., at a waste elimination conference called by the Central Labor Union and the local Labor College.

"Formerly," said President Green, "if the workers suggested changes in industrial methods as an argument in favor of higher wages, this was resented. Industrial waste, duplication of effort, increased efficiency and productivity are considered outside the limit of conference discussion between employers and employed.

"Waste in industry may be divided into three classifications—material waste, human waste and spiritual waste. Labor has given most careful thought to each of these qualifications, putting emphasis upon the human and spiritual rather than upon the material classification.

"Material waste, however, affects the economic life of the workers. A waste detracts from the earnings of industry so it detracts from the earnings of employes.

"The difference between industrial success and failure is found many times in wasteful processes. The unwarranted destruction of raw materials, natural resources and finished products, the uneconomic use of means of production, negligence in the care of machinery and industrial devices, indifference to the saving and protection of property and the failure to utilize all facilities available which make for economic production fall within the category of material waste.

"Treatment accorded workers by a management which classifies them as mere machines and which bestows upon them certain rights in a paternalistic way, tends to bring about a decline in spiritual and moral values. If the workers can help themselves and build up their intellectual, spiritual and economic powers through assertion in their trade unions, they must be given the opportunity to do so.

"Our nation can not maintain its industrial supremacy over the nations of the world unless it fosters those spiritual and moral values which contribute so much to the efficiency of American workers."

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Middletown, Ohio, April 16.—The annual convention of the Ohio State Federation of Labor will convene here the third Monday in July.

MINERS ARE UNITING NON-UNION WORKERS

Charleston, W. Va., April 16.—Non-union miners in this State are joining the United Mine Workers to the dismay of coal barons who have depended upon "yellow dog" contracts and the company "union."

"Reports from northern West Virginia show that production is curtailed 70 per cent since April 1," said Van Bittner, international representative of the United Mine Workers. "Just as the operators, he said, have failed to check the growing demand for collective bargaining which will be granted until the northern field is unionized. Literature features the mine workers' organizing campaign. The union states that the company "union" has reduced wages, continued the short-weighing of coal mined, forced workers to patronize company stores and brought gunmen and armed thugs into every community.

"Unions have been organized in territory where the Miners' Union was unknown," said Will C. Thompson, secretary of District 17. The union drive includes such thug-ridden sections as McDowell, Mercer, Pocahontas and Wyoming, and in the Logan, Mingo and the New River fields.

CHILD LABOR DAY REMINDS PUBLIC

Albany, N. Y., April 16.—Governor Smith has proclaimed May 1 as Child Health Day "to the end that the minds of the public and all agencies interested in the welfare of child welfare may be directed to the importance of the preservation of health and the saving of lives of the future citizens of this State."

The proclamation pointed out that the State has made notable progress in the reduction of deaths among infants from preventable diseases, but added that much remained to be done.

"The principles of right living, in order to be effective, are best taught during the years of childhood," the Governor said.

ALIENS STAY IN NEW YORK

Washington, April 16.—One out of every four immigrant aliens coming to the United States makes New York State his future home, the Bureau of Immigration announces. More Mexicans than any other racial group entered the United States from July to February. Most of them went to Texas, which was second to New York in the matter of permanent abode of immigrants.

POLICE CAN PROTECT PROPERTY, SAYS JUDGE

White Plains, N. Y., April 16.—"Tell your troubles to the police" was the substance of Supreme Court Judge Lynch's decision in the case of bogus bakers from picketing a struck plant. Following the decision, the employer signed a union agreement.

Judge Lynch reminded the plaintiff his business place is close to the police station and if intimidation or law takes place he can get all the protection he is entitled to under regular procedure.

"The accuser and his witnesses can meet the accused and in that way control the situation. Injunctions first the founders of our government had in mind," said Judge Lynch.

"It would seem that this procedure (jury trial) was intended by the founders of our government and it is more likely to result in a just decision than the more popular remedy of a temporary injunction where the court is called upon to determine controverted questions on affidavits without the advantage of seeing the witnesses who make them."

TOBACCO STRIKE ENDS

Washington, April 16.—The eight-months' strike of Porto Rico tobacco workers against the Porto Rican-American Tobacco Company has been settled, according to a letter to President Green from Santiago Iglesias, president of the Porto Rican Free Federation of Workingmen and Spanish language secretary of the Pan-American Federation of Labor.

FILIPINO PLEBISCITE VETOED BY PRESIDENT

Washington, April 16.—President Coolidge vetoed a bill passed by the Philippine legislature authorizing a national referendum on Philippine independence. The bill was vetoed by Governor General Woods of the Philippines. That legislature rejected the veto and the matter thus came before President Coolidge.

"The best security to the Philippine Islands is the protection of and by the United States," said the President.

"A plebiscite on the question of immediate independence would tend to divert the attention of the people toward the pursuit of mere political power rather than to the consideration of the essential steps necessary for the maintenance of a stable, prosperous and well governed community. In frankness and with the utmost friendliness I must state my sincere conviction that the people of the Philippine Islands have not as yet attained the capability of full self-government."

SENATE PROBE BODY CONTINUED BY DAWES

Washington, April 16.—As presiding officer of the Senate, Vice President Dawes has ruled that the Senate Campaign Funds Investigating Committee retains its powers, although Congress has adjourned.

The decision angers the "old guard" who have held that the committee can not function without adjournment of Congress. The Dawes decision is based on a decision by the United States Supreme Court in the Mal Daugherty case that a Senate committee has power to cite witnesses.

This decision was ignored in the closing days of the last Senate session when a filibuster checked the committee's investigation of elections, led the filibusters.

FASCIST PROPAGANDA IS WORKING OVERTIME

Washington, April 16.—Cables from Italy indicate that the Fascisti propaganda machine is working overtime because of the destruction of the seaplane operated by Commander De Pinedo, Italian aviator, who is in this country. A boy confessed that he tossed a lighted cigarette on the oil-soaked waters near where the seaplane was resting, but the Fascisti ignores this fact and is inflaming the Italian people.

COSSACKS DOOMED

Denver, April 16.—Governor Adams has signed the bill that outlaws Cossacks in this State. The bill passed both branches of the Legislature without a dissenting vote.

CHINESE ARE AWAKE; WILL FINALLY WIN

Washington, April 16.—Support of the Chinese nationalist movement was recorded by E. H. Hayes, a factory worker in China, speaking at a luncheon given by the "Y's" Men's Club.

"We have much of anti-Christian and anti-foreign movements in China, but when one understands things done to the Chinese he will find most of these movements, as I have," said Mr. Hayes.

The speaker drew a startling picture of Chinese exploitation by foreigners and the contempt with which they are treated. He said the International Shanghai is controlled by the western powers, and that signs in public parks read: "No dogs or Chinese allowed."

Mr. Hayes said the Chinese are awakening and it is folly to attempt to check their aspirations.

"We have speed and efficiency, but the Orientals have a culture and a civilization that dates back 6,000 years," he said. "The Chinese are beginning to compare our fine professions of lofty idealism with what we actually do. This outlook is sweeping the Far East and every attempt at force makes matters worse. It justifies the claim that we talk one way and act another," said Mr. Hayes.

LEGISLATORS FAVOR OLD-AGE PENSIONS

Harrisburg, Pa., April 16.—A committee of the House of Representatives ignored lamentations of business men and made a favorable report on a constitutional amendment authorizing an old-age pension. Defenders of the amendment include Senator-elect Vare and Harry A. Mackey, city treasurer of Philadelphia.

Alba B. Johnson, president of the Pennsylvania State Chamber of Commerce, led the opposition. He and other business men said additional taxes would ruin the state. Advocates insisted it will end the poorhouses.

An old-age pension measure was adopted by the Legislature but courts declared it was unconstitutional.

COMPENSATION FUND CAN'T BE DIVERTED

Columbus, Ohio, April 16.—Attorney General Turner rules that the State workmen's compensation fund can not be used to finance a State office building.

"The State does not own the funds," the attorney general said. "The State, through its officials, is a trustee for this fund. If there is any principle of law or equity which is settled and needs no citation or authority to convince lawyers or laymen of its propriety, it is that a trustee may not use trust funds for his own benefit."

CONFUSING PUBLIC BY FALSE TERMS IS OLD TRICK

Social progress is slow because experience, rather than reason, must often overcome emotion and sentiment. These are effective weapons of privilege.

False cries have always been used to divert men from their objective. Gustave Le Bon, in "The Crowd, a Study of the Popular Mind," says:

"A pyramid far loftier than that of old Cheops could be raised merely with the names of men who have been the victims of the power of words and formulæ."

Psychologists employed by anti-unionists are aware of the point made by Le Bon. They know the ease with which legendary heroes and catchy phrases sway large sections of the people.

They know that sophistry can be "put over" by a highly-organized propaganda machine.

When trade unionists urge collective bargaining, opponents pretend to approximate union recognition by their "open shop" cry—that no distinction is made between organized and unorganized workers.

This has been repeated so often it has become part of our national vocabulary. Its seeming fairness appeals to unthinking and emotionalists who glibly repeat the formula with no idea of the sinister purpose of those behind the scenes and who encourage its use.

Those who understand crowd psychology stress the "open shop" value. They know it conceals trade union opposition; that it is an opiate and is more effective than clear-cut antagonism.

An untruth affects the will to do. When men lack conviction—when they are not sure of their ground because of tricky and confusing propaganda—their activity is lessened and their cause is weakened.

A shop is either union or anti-union. An employer concedes collective bargaining or he does not. When men talk of "open shop" or the "American plan," they confuse the issue to the joy of anti-unionists.

The foundation of trade unionism rests on collective bargaining. Incorrect phraseology bewilders men engaged in this struggle. They should refuse to accept the program of attack developed by opponents.

They should insist that issues be correctly stated.